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AUTHOR	Newman, Mark
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ABSTRACT

This volume was commissioned to mark the centennial of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools in 1996. It reviews the organization's history and explores the internal culture of the NCA, the role of accreditation, and the unique relationship between educational voluntary associations and the federal government. The book sees the NCA as an agency of change, attempting to maintain relevance and effectiveness. The first chapter looks at the conditions after 1865 that stimulated the founding of the organization in 1896. Chapter 2 explores the first 5 years of the organization, while the next chapter examines the first re-creation resulting from the rise of accrediting from 1901 to approximately 1916. Chapter 4 recounts the first phases of the second re-creation, the development of a new theory of accreditation, and the role played by the NCA as an educational reformer between 1916 and the early 1940s. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 focus on developments in higher education, schools, and the various research commissions between 1945 and the mid-1970s with changes at the Association level covered in Chapter 7. The final chapter covers the post-1970 reform movement and government's increasing impact on accrediting commissions. Also included are 50 photographs of notable educators. (Individual chapters contain reference notes and an overall bibliography contains approximately 150 references.) (CH)

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